



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

***ETHIOPIA – Drought***

Fact Sheet #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

March 20, 2003

*Note: This Fact Sheet updates USAID/OFDA Ethiopia Fact Sheet #3, dated January 31, 2003.*

**Background**

- In 2002, below-average *belg*, or secondary rains (March through May) coupled with delayed and sporadic *meher*, or main rains (July through September) led to widespread food insecurity in Ethiopia affecting pastoral and agricultural areas, particularly the lowlands and midlands of Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP), Tigray, Oromiya, and Amhara regions. The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's (GFDRE) Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission, along with the U.N.'s Emergency Unit for Ethiopia, issued an appeal on the food security situation in the country on September 30, 2002.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimate that Ethiopia's food deficit in 2003 will be more than 2.3 million metric tons (MT), with increased food aid, commercial imports, and internal production needed to meet the deficit. It is currently estimated that 11.3 million people will require more than 1.4 million MT of food aid in 2003 and an additional three million people require close monitoring.
- As many rural households dependent on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods had not yet fully recovered from the drought of 1999/2000, the capacity of these affected populations to cope with the current food shortages has been greatly reduced. Efforts to cope by selling assets have left much of the population destitute and weakened the economy. Along with the perilous food security situation, the ensuing deterioration in health, nutrition, and sanitation conditions have made this a full blown humanitarian crisis.

**Numbers at a Glance**

Total Affected Population	11.3 million	Source: WFP/FAO
Total Food Aid Requirements	1.4 million MT	Source: WFP/FAO

**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date) .....\$227,766,292**  
**Total USG Food Aid in FY 2003 (to date) ..... 481,700 MT**

**Current Situation**

- The worsening humanitarian situation in Ethiopia since mid-2002 has evolved into a food and humanitarian crisis that has the potential to deteriorate even more rapidly in the next several months before the harvest. The humanitarian outlook is dire, particularly if the short *belg* rains are not sufficient and multi-donor support for the crisis is not increased soon.
- While on a national level large-scale food aid distributions that began in July 2002 have stabilized the situation, at the household and village levels, pockets of global and severe acute malnutrition are growing. Recent surveys have shown critical levels (greater than 15 percent) of global acute malnutrition in 24 districts. Relief agencies are struggling to reach many of these areas because of the large territory covered by the drought and a shortage of technical personnel. Given the already alarmingly high levels of global and acute malnutrition, a break in the food aid pipeline could be devastating.
- USAID's Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) reports that, as of March 6, food aid pledges have reached 56 percent of the 2003 food aid requirements, or enough to partially cover needs through the end of June. However, FEWS NET reports that the food aid pipeline is expected to show breaks beginning in late May unless more food aid pledges result in actual deliveries. This is particularly worrisome for some of the worst drought-affected areas which become inaccessible during the peak rainy season in July and will therefore require stocks to be prepositioned in May and June.
- USAID/OFDA assessments concluded that the most affected areas are mainly in the Afar Region and West Hararghe, Arsi, Shewa and Bale zones of Oromiya Region, lowland areas of the Amhara Region, Shinile and Fik zones in the Somali Region, and areas of southern and eastern Tigray Region, and SNNP.
- USAID/OFDA reports that land preparation is already underway in many areas and in some highland and midland areas, many farmers have already planted. While seeds have been difficult to find on the commercial market, the fact that many farmers are planting indicates that seeds were saved from last year or are still available on the informal market. Much of the success or failure of this year's harvest will depend on the consistency and adequacy of the rainfall in coming months.

- Losses of livestock herds are being reported around Shinile and near Somaliland. Many herders have taken their animals into Somaliland in search of better pasture. The number of animals flooding the regional livestock market, even at a reduced selling price, is indicative of the level of crisis the situation is reaching. Depletion of livestock assets, either through distress sales or death, threatens to leave the pastoral population destitute.
- Drought has exacerbated chronic water problems and severe water shortages are being felt in many areas of the country. The water table has dropped several meters in some areas and shallow wells are drying up. A recent USAID/OFDA assessment reported villagers traveling much longer distances than usual to obtain drinking water. Water rationing is being implemented in some towns and others are constructing catchments in time for the rainy season. In addition to addressing emergency water needs, the long-term development of safe water supplies is critical to maintaining sanitary conditions and reducing the risk of water borne disease.
- On February 21, WFP reported that an estimated 76,500 internally displaced persons displaced by the border conflict are unable to return to their land to resume farming activities because of the ongoing border demarcation process and landmine clearance.

### **U.S. Government Response**

- On August 1, 2002, the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia declared a disaster in response to the developing drought situation. In response, USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, and USAID/Ethiopia contributed more than \$71 million in humanitarian assistance in FY 2002. In addition, in FY 2002, USDA contributed \$34.4 million of section 416(b) emergency food assistance and State/PRM provided \$7.2 million towards assistance to refugees in Ethiopia.
- To date in FY 2003, USAID/OFDA has committed funds of more than \$7.2 million to support emergency water and sanitation, health and nutrition, and agricultural recovery activities in drought-affected areas of Oromiya, Afar, Amhara, and SNNP regions.
- Since the onset of the crisis, USAID/OFDA has deployed several technical and program personnel to Ethiopia to augment the efforts of USAID/Ethiopia. These personnel include an Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator (EDRC), based in Addis Ababa, to continually monitor USAID/OFDA programs and a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) epidemiologist to provide technical assistance in the sectors of health and nutrition. From February 27 to March 7, a USAID/OFDA assessment team, including agriculture and water specialists, traveled to drought-affected regions of Oromiya, Somali, and Tigray to assess the humanitarian outlook and short-term recovery prospects.
- To date in FY 2003, USAID/FFP has pledged or committed more than 481,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$220 million. USAID/FFP has also deployed personnel to augment USAID/Ethiopia's Food and Humanitarian Assistance Unit. While no U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds have been obligated in FY 2003 to date, it is anticipated that additional USDA Section 416(b) emergency food assistance will be made available. The U.S. Government is the largest donor of food aid to Ethiopia.
- The Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM) supports Ethiopian refugees in Kenya through the provision of more than \$1.1 million for refugee camp operations.
- During the week of February 16, U.S. Ambassador to the UN's Food and Agriculture agencies Tony Hall and USAID/DCHA Assistant Administrator Roger Winter traveled to Ethiopia to assess the status of the drought, review response measures to date, identify upcoming food and non-food needs, and consider longer-term measures to improve national food security and reduce the likelihood of recurrent crises. They reiterated the U.S. pledge to provide more than 508,000 MT of emergency food aid valued at \$233 million in response to the crisis.

# U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>FY 2003 (TO DATE)</b>				
USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup> .....				\$7,266,292
	AmRC	Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$430,278
	CARE	Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$719,285
	CRS	Agriculture, Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$1,554,983
	FHI	Agriculture	Amhara	\$453,749
	IMC	Primary Health, Nutrition	Oromiya	\$1,689,395
	IRC	Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$1,122,535
	WorldVision	Health, Livelihoods	Afar, SNNPR	\$756,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination	Afar, Somali	\$350,000
	USAID	Administrative	All	\$190,067
USAID/FFP .....				\$220,500,000
	WFP	251,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$116,000,000
	JEOP	201,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$88,500,000
	ICRC	29,700 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE).....</b>				<b>\$227,766,292</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE).....</b>				<b>\$227,766,292</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA also provided more than \$1.2 million in humanitarian assistance in the last quarter of FY 2002.



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